

Geography – Background Information – Who we are

Geography branch is named as such because its work is primarily concerned with how particular locations relate to various boundary sets within Scotland. Within the branch, staff refer to these boundary sets as 'geographies'. For example 'Health Board' geography. In this sense the term 'geography' is used as a reference to the dataset's boundaries.

We are responsible for key geographic products such as the twice yearly Postcode Extract, the quarterly address Extract, various digital boundary datasets and customer requests for data and maps.

We supported Scotland's 2011 Census through the creation of the Enumeration Districts and various maps and addressing products to support delivery and collection of the census questionnaires. It is also responsible for creating the census Output Areas which act as the building blocks for the publication of census data.

Our main customers are the National Records of Scotland statistical production areas and census, other Scottish Government departments, Scotland's council areas and various external enquirers.

We also liaise with other important external organisations such as the Royal Mail, Ordnance Survey, Improvement Service and Office of National Statistics to ensure that any data discrepancies can be resolved to the satisfaction of both parties.

The diagram below gives an overview of our stakeholders and the work we provide.

Geography Branch is responsible for all the material within the geography section of this website.
Please contact our Customer Services if you need any further information.

E-mail: geographycustomerservices@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk

National Records of Scotland (NRS) Geography Stakeholders

NRS Geography

What we do:

- Create and maintain
 - digital postcode boundaries
 - an address database
 - postcode indexes and look-up files
 - specialist postcode extracts
 - other digital boundary and digital spatial files including Settlements and localities
 - address register and look-up files
 - street gazetteer
 - census geography products (various)
- Provide
 - a dedicated geography customer service function
 - assistance to all NRS business areas dependent on Geography
- Promote the use of NRS Geography products
- Develop NRS Geography strategy and policies
- Influence and contribute to the wider Scottish Government Scottish Geography strategy

NRS Demographic Statistics

- Population & Migration
- Household Estimates and Projections
- Census Table Production and Census Outputs
 - Frozen Geography database
 - Census Output Area database
 - Digital Boundaries
 - Geographic Reference Products
- Statistical Information Services
- Vital Events

NRS Statistical Futures

- Census Quality & Data Exploitation
 - Support and Quality Assurance
- Census Design
 - Census Planning areas
 - Mapping
 - Addressing
 - Communal Establishments
 - MIS

NRS Data Resources

- Data Linkage Projects
- National Health Service Central Register (NHSCR) and Community Health Index (CHI)
 - Improve postcodes on NHSCR using Geography data

NRS Record Services

- Conservation Services

Cross Office Resources

- Scottish Government Geographic Information Science And Analysis (GI-SAT)

NRS – potential new areas of work to be explored

- **Registration**
 - potential to provide addressing to support e-Registration
- **Archives**
 - digitising/referencing historical maps/addresses
- **ScotlandsPeople**
 - various possibilities
- **Scottish Council on Archives**

Scottish Government (SG)

Various areas

Our data is used to

Create:

- Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation
- Urban/Rural Classification
- Rural Schools

Determine:

- Land Reform
- Community Right to Buy
- Noise Mapping (for EU)
- Next Generation Broadband Strategy
- Eligibility for Home Insulation
- Energy Performance Certificates

Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics (SNS)

Our data is used to create:

- Data Zones
- Intermediate Zones

Office of the Chief Statistician and Performance (OCSP)

Addressing provided to run:

- The Scottish Household Survey
- The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey
- The Scottish Health Survey

Information Services and Information Systems (ISIS)

- Linked data

Data Suppliers

- One Scotland Mapping Agreement (OSMA)
- Ordnance Survey
- Royal Mail
- Local authorities
- Improvement Service
- ThinkWhere

Joint Initiatives

- Ordnance Survey / Scottish Government
 - Investigation into adding Scottish boundaries into OS products
 - Making quality improvements to English postcode boundaries
- Scottish Government / Registers of Scotland
 - Analysis on house prices and area type (using NRS and RoS data)
- HM Revenue & Customs
 - Supporting Scottish rate of Income Tax
- Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCHAMS)
 - Linked data

External Customers

- Information Services Division (ISD)
- Local authorities
 - Dundee City Council, Broadband voucher scheme
- Health boards
- Local Government Boundary Commission
- Scottish Parliament
- Office for National Statistics (ONS)
- Ordnance Survey
- Royal Mail
- Private e.g. Experian/Atos
- One Scotland Mapping Agreement Members
- Eurostat
- Academia
 - The University of Manchester, linking historical Census geographies
- Scottish Water